

substantially the entire outer surface of said respective plastic preforms.

a² 165. Apparatus according to Claim 157, wherein each said cooling pin has an interior cooling fluid exit channel configured to permit cooling fluid to exit from an interior of said respective plastic preforms through an interior of said each cooling pin.

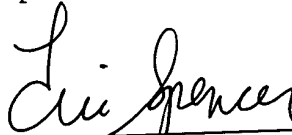
166. Apparatus according to Claim 157, further comprising cooling fluid supply structure for providing cooling fluid to each said cooling pin to cause cooling of a tip of said respective plastic preforms at a rate which prevents substantial crystallinity formation in said tip.

REMARKS

Claims 99-166 are pending in the application.
Claims 99, 106, 114, and 123 are independent.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington office by telephone at (202) 625-3500. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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